IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1-2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

defining a global address space identifying a plurality of internet protocol (IP) addresses that are reserved for use in one or more virtual network environments, wherein each virtual network environment includes one or more of the plurality of IP addresses;

assigning a first IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a first application;

assigning a second IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a second application; and

if the first application is to be isolated from the second application, including the first IP address in a first virtual network environment and including the second IP address in a second virtual network environment different from the first virtual network environment, wherein the first virtual network environment is transparent to the first application, and wherein the second virtual network environment is transparent to the second application.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising, if the first application is to be permitted to communicate with the second application, including the first IP address and the second IP address in a same virtual network environment.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the first IP address is a virtual IP address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the first IP address is a physical IP address of a computer on which the first application is executing.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein defining the global address space comprises specifying a global subnet and a global netmask that encompass the plurality of IP addresses.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the plurality of IP addresses are virtual.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7 further comprising associating the global subnet and global netmask with the first application and the second application.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising associating a first subnet and a first netmask with the first application, the first subnet and the first netmask defining the first virtual network environment.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the global subnet, the global netmask, the first subnet, and the first netmask are parameters of a process state of the first application.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising:

the first application initiating a communication to a third IP address; and

if the third IP address is not in the global address space, permitting the communication.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising, if the third IP address is in the global address space and also within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, permitting the communication.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising, if the third IP address is in the global address space and not within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, preventing the communication.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a plurality of instructions which, when executed, implement a method comprising:

defining a global address space identifying a plurality of internet protocol (IP) addresses that are reserved for use in one or more virtual network environments, wherein each virtual network environment includes one or more of the plurality of IP addresses;

assigning a first IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a first application;

assigning a second IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a second application; and

if the first application is to be isolated from the second application, including the first IP address in a first virtual network environment and including the second IP address in a second virtual network environment different from the first virtual network environment, wherein the first virtual network environment is transparent to the first application, and wherein the second virtual network environment is transparent to the second application.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises, if the first application is to be permitted to

communicate with the second application, including the first IP address and the second IP address in a same virtual network environment.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 15 wherein the first IP address is a virtual IP address.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 15 wherein the first IP address is a physical IP address of a computer on which the first application is executing.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 15 wherein defining the global address space comprises specifying a global subnet and a global netmask that encompass the plurality of IP addresses.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 19 wherein the plurality of IP addresses are virtual.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 19 wherein the method further comprises associating the global subnet and global netmask with the first application and the second application.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 21 wherein the method further comprises associating a first subnet and a first netmask with the first application, the first subnet and the first netmask defining the first virtual network environment.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 22 wherein the global subnet, the global netmask, the first subnet, and the first netmask are parameters of a process state of the first application.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises:

in response to the first application initiating a communication to a third IP address; and

if the third IP address is not in the global address space, permitting the communication.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 24 wherein the method further comprises, if the third IP address is in the global address space and also within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, permitting the communication.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 24 wherein the method further comprises, if the third IP address is in the global address space and not within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, preventing the communication.

27. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a plurality of computers coupled in a network, wherein at least one of the computers comprises a computer readable medium storing a plurality of instructions which, when executed, implement a method comprising:

defining a global address space identifying a plurality of internet protocol (IP) addresses that are reserved for use in one or more virtual network environments, wherein each virtual network environment includes one or more of the plurality of IP addresses;

assigning a first IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a first application;

assigning a second IP address of the plurality of IP addresses to a second application; and

if the first application is to be isolated from the second application, including the first IP address in a first virtual network environment and including the second IP address in a second virtual network environment different from the first virtual network environment, wherein the first virtual network environment is transparent to the first application, and wherein the second virtual network environment is transparent to the second application.

28. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein the method further comprises, if the first application is to be permitted to communicate with the second application, including the first IP address and the second IP address in a same virtual network environment.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first IP address is a virtual IP address.

30. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first IP address is a physical IP address of one of the plurality of computers on which the first application is executing.

31. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein defining the global address space comprises specifying a global subnet and a global netmask that encompass the plurality of IP addresses.

32. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 31 wherein the plurality of IP addresses are virtual.

33. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 31 wherein the method further comprises associating the global subnet and global netmask with the first application and the second application.

34. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 33 wherein the method further comprises associating a first subnet and a first netmask with the first application, the first subnet and the first netmask defining the first virtual network environment.

35. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 34 wherein the global subnet, the global netmask, the first subnet, and the first netmask are parameters of a process state of the first application.

36. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 27 wherein the method further comprises:

in response to the first application initiating a communication to a third IP address; and

if the third IP address is not in the global address space, permitting the communication.

37. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 36 wherein the method further comprises, if the third IP address is in the global address space and also within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, permitting the communication.

38. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 36 wherein the method further comprises, if the third IP address is in the global address space and not within a same virtual network environment as the first IP address, preventing the communication.